Condition of Traders

3838. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Trade in India shackled: ASSOCHAM" which appeared in the Hindu dated the 8th June, 2001;

(b) whether the State Government of West Bengal had also expressed apprehensions over the conditions of traders; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) A section of the article'Trade in India shackled: ASSOCHAM" refers to the study conducted by the ASSOCHAM on the trade sector. The Government have always been playing the role of a facilitator of trade and, over the period, have endeavored to simplify the tax procedures, reduced the discretionary powers of tax authorities and inspectors, and ensured easy availiability of credit to traders.

Export of Poor Quality Tea to Libya

3839. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO :Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India lost its tea export market in Libya due to allegedly substandard tea which was not fit for human consumption;

(b) if so, whether an enquiry has been held in this matter;

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter against the erring persons; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that such things do not recur in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVUAY SINGH): (a) to (d) Libya is not a stable market for Indian tea. Exports of tea to Libya during the last five years were as follows:—